

**SCOTTSDALE PRIDE COMMITTEE
ONE CIVIC CENTER
7447 E. INDIAN SCHOOL
PLAN REVIEW CONFERENCE ROOM
SCOTTSDALE, AZ
SEPTEMBER 1, 2005**

MINUTES

AS APPROVED OCTOBER 6, 2005

Present: Cristina Lenko (Chair)
Donald Scott (Vice-Chair)
Vicki Carr
Carol Cerrito (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)
Richard Kimberly
Rosanna Organ
Ronald Robins
Judy Snyder (arrived at 5:36 p.m.)
Zachary Stahmer
Sonnie Stevens
Richard Taylor
Stewart Walowitz
Pamela Wheeler
Cathy Zebarth

Absent: Chandra Bonfiglio

Staff: Rob Millar

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Lenko. A roll call confirmed the presence of Committee members as noted above.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES

Ms. Stevens noted that on page 2 under business enhancement award highlight the minutes should read "Chair Lenko reported that the Business Property Enhancement Sub-committee's work.."

Mr. Kimberly moved that the amended minutes of the August meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robins, which passed unanimously by a vote of 12 (twelve) to zero (0).

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Chair Lenko introduced Ms. Haskell, who gave a presentation regarding community gardens. She noted that several schools were planning to apply to the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission for funding. She mentioned that schools, churches, and some nursing homes are good sites for community gardens and talked about how to find donations and get publicity.

A discussion ensued on the role that the Committee could play in assisting with start-up of community gardens. Offering assistance to nursing homes may be most helpful as they do not have volunteers to draw on. Ms. Organ suggested that there are many City-owned corners that could be enhanced, which could be another project option.

At Chair Lenko's request, Ms. Haskell elaborated on how the nursing homes had been selected. She explained that they had looked at homes with Medicare patients, little budget for activities and where the management had a commitment to keep up the garden once it was in place. She suggested calling the nursing homes to find out what their needs are. Ms. Haskell noted that some churches have unused land and want to do community outreach. The garden can provide fresh produce for needy people and occupy young people constructively.

She noted that the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission gives grants but not practical volunteer assistance. Vice-Chair Scott noted that the Commission has been very generous in giving money for Treasures and Trash t-shirts.

Chair Lenko thanked Ms. Haskell for her presentation. A discussion ensued on whether to continue the sub-committee. Mr. Robbins suggested that if no one on the Committee wants to be active in community gardens at this time, it could be set aside until the next retreat. Chair Lenko noted that she had been approached by someone at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts with the idea of tying the community gardens into a public arts program. A meeting with them is scheduled for next week.

Mr. Robbins moved to table the discussion to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Scott and passed unanimously by a vote of 14 (fourteen) to zero (0).

PRIDE PARK

Mr. Millar handed out photographs of Pride Park and briefly outlined the history of the park. Every April the Committee does a major clean-up and maintenance gardening. He had visited the park the previous day and observed that it was in good shape. He noted that it is not fully utilized by the neighborhood. The Parks and Grounds Management Department checks on the park throughout the year. The Montessori Academy has adopted the park as a project and the children pick up trash on a monthly basis. Chair Lenko wondered whether caring for the park could be combined with community gardens. A discussion ensued regarding the Committee's responsibility for the park.

Committee members noted the investment in time, labor and water that a garden would entail. The consensus was that some trees are needed to make the park more shady and inviting.

Mr. Kimberly asked what other locations around the City might be candidates for similar pocket parks and Mr. Millar replied that there are several, including 87th Street and Coronado, and 136th Street and Shea Boulevard. Mr. Kimberley suggested that the Committee might look at some of those locations. Mr. Millar undertook to provide a list of locations.

The Committee discussed available resources and how to determine what the neighborhood needs are. Vice-Chair Scott suggested that the Committee should come up with a master plan of suitable locations for neighborhood parks and how they might be enhanced. Chair Lenko suggested that if Mr. Millar could circulate the list of locations before the next meeting, members could inspect the various locations and prepare themselves for discussion. Ms. Stevens volunteered to take digital photos so that these could be shared at the meeting.

TREASURES AND TRASH UPDATE

Vice-Chair Scott reported that the sub-committee had met the previous week. They are working on securing two large prizes, (one for each sign-up station), and hope to have definite answers from the donors by the end of next week. He asked Committee members to assist in finding other prizes.

At the suggestion of Mr. Robbins, Committee members identified which station they would be staffing. Vice-Chair Scott said that 115 volunteers have so far pledged to attend. He reported on the procurement of t-shirts and gloves, which are being paid by a donation from the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission.

GAIN KICK-OFF EVENT

Mr. Millar reported that the event is to be held on September 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts. Chair Lenko noted that she, Ms. Cerrito, Ms. Organ, and Mr. Scott had volunteered to staff the table.

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Millar suggested moving the location of Committee meetings to the conference room upstairs. He noted that although the room is smaller, it has a better configuration and is better suited to accommodate the meeting.

Mr. Millar advised the Committee that the City Attorney's Office has drafted new language to be included in all e-mails. This is related to the Open Meeting law. The tag line advises recipients of e-mails that if they wish to respond they can reply to the sender,

but not to the entire list of recipients, since this could be construed as a group conversation that was not posted.

Mr. Millar noted that a replacement for Ms. Bonfiglio is to be appointed later in the month. At that point he will distribute an updated contact list and order new nameplates. He reminded the Committee that an orientation session is scheduled for the end of September and that anyone who has not yet attended an orientation session should plan to attend.

City Hall has recently undergone security upgrades and ID badges are required for security checkpoints. The Civic Center will shortly be upgraded as well. All members need to have ID badges.

Mr. Millar will send out an e-mail regarding possible dates for the annual retreat in January. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 6; location to be confirmed.

MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Snyder shared that although she did go on her planned bicycle trip, she elected not to participate in the 500-mile bike ride.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A-V Tronics, Inc.